

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-17, 19-21, 23, 25-27 and 29 are pending in this application. The Office Action withdraws claims 2, 5-9, 11, 13-15, 17, 19-21, 23, 25-27 and 29 from consideration, and rejects claims 1, 4, 10, 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants hereby amend claim 1, cancel claim 4 and traverse the rejection. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in the specification as filed at paragraph [0028]. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because e.g. they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 10, 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Ikushima in view of Nagarjuna or the acknowledged prior art. The Office Action asserts that Ikushima discloses each claimed feature except for electrical conductivity of 25% and at least 10% IACS, which are taught, respectively, by Nagarjuna and the acknowledged prior art. Thus, it would allegedly have been obvious to combine Ikushima with age hardened Cu-Ti alloy from Nagarjuna, having electrical conductive materials as disclosed by the acknowledged prior art, in order to obtain the claimed invention. Applicants hereby amend claim 1, cancel claim 4 and traverse the rejection.

Although Ikushima teaches that Cu-Ti alloy has good electrical conductivity after aging hardening, Ikushima fails to teach any specific electrical conductivity. Nagarjuna teaches Cu-2.7Ti alloy having an electrical conductivity of 25°C. See Nagarjuna, page 2933. However, the conductivity in Nagarjuna was obtained by over aging in which the alloy was heated at 450°C for 24 hours after being rolled with a reduction rate of 90%. See Id. At 2933.

In contrast, in the claimed invention, aging from 1 to 15 hours results in desired electrical conductivity and other properties. If the aging occurs over less than 1 hour, improvements in strength and electrical conductivity cannot be expected; if aging occurs over more than 15 hours, at least strength is decreased. See specification as filed, Paragraph [0033]. Since Nagarjuna teaches over-aging, the claimed properties of 0.2% proof stress of 800 N/mm² or more, and potentially other critical resultant properties cannot be obtained as in the claimed invention. None of the cited references teach or suggest these properties, or how the processes and products of the cited references could or should be modified in order to provide the claimed properties.

For at least the foregoing reasons, instant claim 1 and 12, and dependent claims 10 and 16 would not have been obvious over Ikushima in view of Nagarjuna or the acknowledged art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-2, 5-17, 19-21, 23, 25-27 and 29 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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